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July 15, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that more than \$388 million in federal funding is now available for Louisiana under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, also known as the Recovery Act or Stimulus Act. This funding will help save teaching jobs at risk from state and local budget cuts and can also be used to modernize school facilities. Louisiana will be eligible to apply for an additional \$191 million this fall. Today's funding is being made available per Louisiana's successful completion of Part 1 of the State Stabilization Application, which was made available on April 1st. Funding will be allocated by the state.

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"Louisiana's budget shortfall has led to devastating funding cuts for higher education in our state, cuts that will mean fewer professors in classrooms and fewer resources for students," said Rep. Melancon. "The \$388 million in stimulus funding announced today is intended to help our state shore up its budget and avoid more cuts to our schools and universities. Even in lean years, investing in our children's education must be a top priority for Louisiana, and this funding will help us keep that commitment."

"The \$388 million Louisiana will receive today is part of the single largest boost in education funding in recent history," said U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "The Recovery Act investments in our students and our schools will have a huge payoff in the years ahead. Louisiana can now utilize these funds to save jobs and lay the groundwork for a generation of education reform."

In addition to the \$388 million in funding made available today, Louisiana has already received more than \$324 million in education stimulus funds-representing a combination of funding for Title I, IDEA, Vocational Rehabilitation Grants, Independent Living Grants, Impact Aid and Government Services funds. The Title I program provides funds to low-income school districts that are in even greater need during the economic downturn. IDEA is the federal program that provides funding for special education and related services to students with disabilities.

On April 1st, Louisiana received \$88.6 million in Title I funding and nearly \$101 million in IDEA funding. This represents 50 percent of the Title I and IDEA funding Louisiana is eligible for in

total. On April 1, Louisiana also received nearly \$5 million in Vocational Rehab funds and more than \$726,000 in Independent Living funds.

On April 10, Louisiana received more than \$173,000 in Impact Aid funding.

In order to receive today's funds, Louisiana verified that it will collect, publish, analyze and act on basic information regarding the quality of classroom teachers, annual student improvements, college readiness, the effectiveness of state standards and assessments, progress on removing charter caps and interventions in turning around underperforming schools.

Louisiana is also required by the Department of Education to report the number of jobs saved through Recovery Act funding, the amount of state and local tax increases averted and how funds are used.

See Louisiana and other state applications for initial funding under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Program at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/resources.html> .

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